

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a chimeric GBV-B polynucleotide encoding a virus.
2. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a chimeric GBV-B genome, wherein at least part, but not all of a 5' NTR sequence is from a HCV 5' NTR.
3. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein at least one, but not all of domain I, II, III, or IV of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5' NTR.
4. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain I of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.
5. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain II of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.
6. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain III of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.
7. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 6, wherein the 5' NTR domain Ib of GBV-B is deleted.
8. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain IV of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.
9. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain I and domain II of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.
10. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain I and domain III of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.
11. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain I and domain IV of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.

12. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain II and domain III of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.

13. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain II and domain IV of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.

14. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain III and domain IV of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.

15. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein domain II, domain III and domain IV of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.

16. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 15, wherein the 5' NTR domain Ib of GBV-B is deleted.

17. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.

18. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein said polynucleotide is RNA.

19. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 1, further comprising at least part of a structural protein coding region of HCV.

20. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 1, further comprising at least part of a non-structural protein coding region of HCV.

21. (Original) A viral expression construct comprising a chimeric GBV-B polynucleotide, wherein at least a part of the 5' NTR sequence is from a HCV 5' NTR.

22. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, wherein domain III of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5' NTR.

23. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, further comprising a deletion of the GBV-B 5' NTR domain Ib region.

24. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, wherein said construct is a plasmid.

25. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, wherein said construct is a virus.

26. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, further defined as a construct for the expression of a chimeric GBV-B/HCV virus.

27. (Original) A method for identifying a compound active against a viral infection comprising:

providing a virus expressed from a viral construct comprising a chimeric GBV-

B/HCV virus;

contacting the virus with a candidate substance; and

comparing infectivity of the virus in the presence of the candidate substance with the infectivity of the virus in the absence of the candidate substance.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the chimeric virus comprises at least part of a 5' NTR sequence from a HCV 5' NTR.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the chimeric virus comprises domain III of the 5' NTR is from a HCV 5'NTR.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the chimeric virus comprises a deletion of domain Ib of GBV-B.

31.-58. (Canceled)